

SOOKDAYA AND THE RAM GOAT

It had this *panchayat* (group) in dis *gaon* (village) and every year dey used to have a Ramayana Yagya. The *panchayat* (group) used to go by every house and collect rice, flour, money and thing and they used to have this *Panchoutie Ramayana Yagya* (prayer session organised by a group). It never had plenty Christian people then. The *yagya* (prayer session) used to be very big and the last night they cook food and feed everybody.

Sookdaya, ah old lady in the *gaon* (village) used to go every night. Sookdaya used to listen good what the *baba* (priest) say. Every night she goin and sitting down in front and listening to the *baba* (priest) when he reading the *Ramayana*.

The *baba* (priest) sit down on the *singhasan* (throne, seat of the lion) and reading the *Ramayana* and saying he *mantras* (sacred formula). The *baba* (priest) notice Sookdaya how she coming everyday before everybody and leaving after everybody. When the *baba* (priest) reading he book and ting he seeing how Sookdaya listening and sometime she *suskaying* (sobbing) and crying.

The *baba* (priest) saying to herself this lady real enjoying the *Katha* (story) so he reading and putting more in the *Katha* (story). The *baba* (priest) saying in he mind this is a real *bhakta* (devotee) if it had more people so that woulda be real good. Plenty people who come in the *yagya* (prayer session) only come for the *parsad* (offerings).

panchayat - group

gaon - village

yagya - prayer session

baba - priest

parsad - offerings

singhasan - thron, seat of a lion

mantras - sacred formula

suskaying - sobbing

katha - story

bhakta - devotee



ME RAM GOAT DE HAVE AH BEARD LIKE YOURS.

The last night now the *baba* (priest) done say he final prayers and give he final *darshan* (blessing) so he gone by Sookdaya and he say, "*Sitaran*, *sitaram bahen* (greetings sister)."

Sookdaya say, "Sitaram baba."

The *baba* (priest) say, "Ah see you coming every night *bahen* (sister), you real like to hear the *Katha* (story), ah see you does cry too."

Sookdaya say, "*Katha* (story) crying, what you talking about *baba*?" (priest).

But ah does see you crying when ah reading the *Katha* (story)" the *baba* (priest) say.

Sookdaya replied, "Oh *baba* (priest) you think ah does cry because the *Katha* (story) sad.

"So why you does cry for?", the *baba* (priest) ask she.

Sookdaya say, "The truth *baba* (priest) is dat I de have a white ram-goat and the ram-goat de have a beard like yours. The ram-goat dead now but everytime I see you ah does remember the ram-goat ah does have to cry. Ah de real like dat ram-goat."

The *baba* (priest) say, "He Ram! (Oh God!). I thought you de like the *Ramayana Katha* (story of the Ramayana).

darshan - blessing
bahen - sister.

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